

ethnic Chinese minority as the scapegoats for these societal ills.

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As a result, massive human rights violations have occurred. Mobs have shut down Christian church services and burned down places of worship. Between February 14 and 17 alone, rioters destroyed the property of 29 churches. Churches gathered to find their musical instruments, benches, bibles, church documents and entire buildings destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, the extremists are not the only perpetrators of human rights abuses. Government authorities allegedly participate in the violence and abuses by failing to protect the churches and communities from attackers. By doing nothing in response to these violations, the government implicitly collaborates with extremist groups and builds anti-Christian sentiment. This is outrageous.

Mr. Speaker, we should not look the other way while such blatant human rights violations occur in Indonesia. I urge Mr. Mondale to raise these issues during his meetings with Mr. Suharto and the Government of Indonesia to take steps immediately to protect these minorities from abuse.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 856, UNITED STATES-PUERTO RICO POLITICAL STATUS ACT

(Mr. WICKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to know there is bipartisan opposition to H.R. 856, the United States-Puerto Rico Political Status Act, which we will be asked to vote on tomorrow.

Over the past few weeks, I have received a lot of conflicting information regarding Puerto Rican statehood. Some say statehood will cost the taxpayers \$3.5 billion. Others say it will result in a \$2.5 billion benefit. Which is true? I cannot be sure, and the American people do not know the truth yet either.

When I was home this weekend, I asked several folks what they thought of Puerto Rico becoming the 51st State. Most of my constituents did not even realize Congress was considering such a vote. We should not vote on such an important bill when our voters are not fully informed.

During my time in Congress, I have generally been supportive of my leadership. But I say to the Republican leadership today that they are making a grave mistake. I believe they have misjudged the will and understanding of the American people. They do not know enough about this legislation, they do not know it is coming. Americans are going to wake up Thursday morning with Puerto Rico well on its way to becoming the 51st star in the flag and they are going to say, why were we not consulted?

I urge my leadership to pull this measure and give the American people an opportunity to make an informed decision.

CITIZENS PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. HUTCHINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, in 1995 a bounty hunter was chasing a bond jumper in Texas. In Houston, he found a woman he thought to be the bond jumper and beat her severely. The woman, who was pregnant, miscarried the next day. The key fact was the bounty hunter had the wrong woman. An innocent woman lost her child at the hands of a rogue bounty hunter.

The majority of bounty hunters are professionals who do excellent work. Unfortunately, there are a few Dirty Harry wannabes out there as well, and the results can be tragic.

I urge my colleagues to support the Citizens Protection Act, a bill which provides an incentive to weed out the rogue bounty hunters and prevent this kind of reckless abuse that resulted in the death of that mother's child.

The Citizens Protection Act holds two things: It says that bounty hunters and their employers, bail bondsmen, are accountable for their actions, making them liable for civil rights actions. The second thing it does, it requires bounty hunters who cross State lines in pursuit of a bond jumper to report their intentions to State law enforcement authorities.

A bounty hunter's license, Mr. Speaker, should not be a license to terrorize and abuse innocent citizens, and I urge my colleagues to support the Citizens Protection Act.

DON'T SPEND THE SURPLUS

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, today the Congressional Budget Office announced that the Federal budget is in surplus for the first time in 30 years. This is remarkable, especially when we look at where we were in 1994.

In 1994, President Clinton's budget projected \$200 billion in deficits for as far as the eye could see. Now, back then, the pundits laughed at the Republican leadership when we said we were going to balance the budget as we cut taxes. Well, who is laughing now?

Now that we have a surplus, we need to return the money back to the American taxpayer. Unfortunately, the President has different ideas. He has proposed over \$100 billion in new Washington spending.

Well, Mr. Speaker, my constituents do not want any more wasteful Washington spending. Their message to the President is very clear: Don't spend our surplus.

HISTORIC CROSSROADS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, we are at a historic crossroads in American history. For the first time since 1969 we have a budget surplus.

As we stand at this crossroads, we see the path fork in front of us and divide in two ways. We can follow Bill Clinton to the left. Bill Clinton wants to lead us down the run down and rutted road that takes us backwards to the era of big government.

Or we can walk the road that leads to the right. This path leads us away from big government spending and leads us closer to familiar benchmarks, like personal responsibility and personal freedom.

The road to the right gives the American people the power to spend their own money, however they see fit, rather than spending it on some far-off Washington bureaucracy in the form of new government spending.

We face an enormous choice today, Mr. Speaker. We can take the road to the left and continue to make the Federal Government bigger and more bloated, or we can go to the right and give the American people more prosperity and more freedom.

We have seen where the path leads to the left, Mr. Speaker. We do not want to travel down that road again.

IS THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE WILLING TO LOOK INTO THE FACES OF AMERICAN FARM FAMILIES?

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I have a question today for the Department of Agriculture. Are you willing to look into the faces of American farm families?

Yesterday morning in Sweetgrass, Montana, on the border between Canada and the United States, dozens of farmers and ranchers from both sides of the border gathered in protest by barricading the border to gain the attention of the administration.

It is not just a protest about grain prices, even though those prices are below the cost of production. And it was not just a protest about unfair trade, even though Canada and the Canadian Grain Board is dumping grain into the United States. It was a protest about administrations in Washington and a Federal Government in Ottawa that have turned their back on producers.

My question to the Secretary of Agriculture and to our trade representative: Will you come to Shelby, Montana and will you look into the faces of these farm families, and will you sit at